

Governor's Upper Yellowstone River Task Force
Meeting Summary
March 21, 2000
Livingston Depot Center
Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

I. Introductions

Members Present:

John Bailey, Chair	Jerry O'Hair
Mike Atwood, Vice Chair	Brant Oswald
Roy Aserlind	Rod Siring
Michelle Goodwine	Bob Wiltshire
David Haug	Ellen Woodbury
Tom Lane	

Others Present:

Joel Tohtz, Ex-Officio	Jim Robinson	Tom Hallin
John Logan, Ex-Officio	Gayleen Malone	Jeanne-Marie Souvigney
Karl Christians, Proxy Ex-Officio	Martin Davis	Phil Farnes
Alan Steinle, Ex-Officio	Lionel Dicharry	Doug Ensign
Terri Marceron, Ex-Officio	Doug Ensign	Alan Kessleheim
Liz Galli-Noble, Coordinator	Don Freeman	Larry Stephenson
Amy Miller, Administrative Secretary	Stan Todd	May Mace
Andy Dana	Will Rizzo	

Prior Meeting Minutes

The February 15, 2000 minutes were approved as written.

II. Announcements

1. Liz Galli-Noble reported that Department of Environmental Quality is conducting a educational meeting on Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in Livingston at the Lincoln School building in the auditorium room on May 11th; 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. open house, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. meeting.
2. Liz presented a copy of the landowner permission letter, thanking Joel Tohtz, Andy Dana, Terri Marceron, and John Logan for their input. If other Task Force members have suggestions on this draft letter contact Liz.
3. Liz presented In-kind Contribution-Tracking Sheets to the Task Force members. Liz asked the Task Force (Task Force members, Ex-Officio's, and Technical Advisory Committee members) to record their hours and travel expenses spent on any Task Force business other than the regular Task Force meeting. Currently Liz and Amy are recording the attendance for the regular Task Force meetings. This in-kind information needs to be submitted to Liz or Amy Miller quarterly; instructions and dates were outlined in the package presented.

III. Park Conservation District Discussion

The Park Conservation District approached the Task Force to increase the administration fees from 8 percent to 10 percent on all grants sponsored by the District. Gayleen Malone, Park Conservation District Board member, presented an outline and explained the following points: operation of districts, expenses related to administration, examples of other administration fees, and why there is a need for an administration fee increase. Gayleen explained that the increased administration fees would take affect on July 1, 2000, and any grants pending, grants already received, or grants that will be submitted before July 1, will remain at 8 percent.

Jerry O'Hair made a motion to accept the increase in administration fees from 8 percent to 10 percent on the actual grant amount received and to make the change in the *Memorandum of Understanding* between the District and Task Force to reflect the new administration fee percent.

Bob Wiltshire amended the motion to read as: accept the increase in administration fees from 8 percent to 10 percent on the actual grant amount received, make the change in the *Memorandum of Understanding* to reflect the new administration fee percent, and that the 10 percent will take affect on July 1, 2000 (existing grants, pending grants, and grants that will be submitted before July 1, 2000 will remain at 8 percent). The amended motion was seconded by Jerry O'Hair and passed unanimously.

The *Memorandum of Understanding* will be modified to include the motions, the Task Force and Park Conservation District will need to sign the modified version. John Bailey asked Amy to review the *Memorandum of Understanding* for an expiration date.

IV. Financial Updates

Grant spending report:

Amy Miller reported on the following to the Task Force:

Start-Up Grant-DEQ	Grant amount:	\$49,138.00	Spent:	\$20,491.58	Balance:	\$28,646.42
319 Grant (1)-DEQ	Grant amount:	\$40,000.00	Spent:	\$24,867.79	Balance:	\$15,132.21
RDGP-DNRC	Grant amount:	\$299,940.00	Spent:	\$44,487.33	Balance:	\$255,452.67
319 Grant (2)-DEQ	Grant amount:	\$58,000.00	Spent:	\$-0-	Balance:	\$58,000.00

The grant balances reflect expenses through March 21, 2000.

Funding Updates:

Alan Steinle reported on US Army Corps of Engineers funding information.

1. Technical Assistance or Section #22 Funding: US Army Corps of Engineers Section 22: Jim Robinson and Chuck Dalby, DNRC, have requested funding for the Riparian Trend Analysis and Topographic Floodplain Mapping. Section 22 funding will require a 50/50 non-federal match. Alan Steinle reported that at this time no decision has been made for the funding through Section 22.
2. US Army Corps of Engineers general funding: The Corps has released the remaining balance of \$149,000 from the original budget of \$372,000 from Fiscal Year 1999. Mike Gilbert (Omaha

office) is currently working with Liz Galli-Noble, Jim Robinson, and Chuck Dalby on the funding. Liz thanked Alan Steinle and Mike Gilbert for their work on the budget.

Finally, Alan reported that \$2.5 million has been appropriated to the Corps for watershed studies, however at this time he does not know how much of the funding is still available. He will report back when he gets that information.

3. Congressional Delegation: Liz reported that Senator Max Baucus worked to have \$500,000 reallocated to fund projects on the entire Yellowstone River. John Bailey asked Alicia Bradshaw (Baucus' Bozeman Office Manager) to determine for the Task Force how that funding will be split for the river.

A budget of the under funded or non-funded portions of the Cumulative Effects Study was submitted to the congressional delegates, at this time the Task Force has not received any word back on that funding request.

4. Montana Department of Transportation Research funding: Jim reported that a proposal for the floodplain mapping has been submitted to the DOT, and there is internal support for the proposal. In April, the proposal will be presented to the research grant committee. The funding source will not require any match for other sources.

V. Outline Review for 2000 Workshops

1. Effect of Wildfire on the Upper Yellowstone River Basin

Liz presented a draft outline for the workshop. The following suggestions were made:

- Move the existing forest conditions forward on the agenda (before lunch).
- Include more of a variety of speakers with different education backgrounds.
- Include "hydrology" in the title of the workshop.
- Build-in breaks.

Liz asked the Task Force to contact her in one to two weeks if they have names of potential speakers for the workshop. Liz will make the changes to the workshop outline and report back to the Task Force at the April meeting for final approval. Liz thanked Phil Farnes and Chuck Dalby for their help in developing the outline for the workshop. The Task Force chose May 13, 2000 for the workshop date. Suggestions for locations are City/County Community Room, Civic Center, Park High School gym, Lincoln School, or Park County Fairgrounds.

A motion was made approving Liz to move forward with the Wetlands/Riparian Education Grant for the workshop in the amount of \$1,000.00, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Riparian Wetland Management

Liz presented a rough draft of the wetland workshop, and explained that she and Drew Overholser, Montana Watercourse, put together a simple outline in order to solicit feedback. Liz has requested Duncan Patten, Technical Advisory Committee Chairman, to help with the workshop. Task Force and members of the public are encouraged to review this outline and provide suggestions to Liz in the next month. This workshop is scheduled for mid to late June

2000, so there is still plenty of time to work out details. Liz will present a modified outline of the workshop at the next Task Force meeting.

VI. Wildlife Assessment Rewrite Review

The Task Force sent the Wildlife proposal to the Technical Advisory Committee in January to modify as specified. Duncan Patten was unable to attend the meeting. So, Jim Robinson, DNRC, presented the new modified draft of the Wildlife proposal to the Task Force. The following comments were made:

- The proposal as written does not meet the landowners (large and small landowners) criteria.
- Strike words such as “stream bank effects.”
- Wildlife assessment is similar to other components of the Cumulative Effects Study.
- How do researchers assess effects if wildlife is abundant?
- The Proposal is written with preconceived notions (biased).
- Landowners are bothered by obvious ties between riprap and wildlife.
- Bank modification and its affect is what brought the Task Force together.
- All components of the study relate to bank stabilization.
- The Proposal is collecting baseline data.
- Limited funds affect the proposal.
- The Literature review is an important factor of the proposal.
- We need to look at best accommodations for the river (includes Ag land, City of Livingston, etc.).
- Tom Lane offered his 13 miles of river property as a “demonstration study area for the wildlife investigation”.

A unanimous consensus was reached that the Task Force accepts the overall Wildlife Proposal. However, because Task Force members had minor concerns with the wording of the title, introduction, and several words within the text, simple wordsmithing will be incorporated into this approved proposal.

Liz will solicit comment from Task Force members and make minor changes next week. The Technical Advisory Committee will then review the suggested modifications. Finally, the Task Force will be presented with a final version at the April meeting.

The Task Force also approved the strategy outlined within the Wildlife Proposal: Phase I will be completed upon which time the TAC will report their findings to the Task Force, this in turn will be followed by Phase II.

VII. Socio-Economic Subcommittee Report

Mike Atwood reported on the progress of the socio-economic subcommittee. Alan Steinle attended the first meeting, and discussed the needs of the US Army Corps of Engineers for the socio-economic study. The subcommittee wants to try and gather information that will be useful to the Corps. The Corps is interested in the associated cumulative effects with bank stabilization. The subcommittee has chosen to move forward with the “easier” portion of the study by focusing on economics. This is because a large portion of the data is available for a baseline economic investigation.

Tim Bryggman, Economist with DNRC, has agreed to complete a draft of Economics Phase I: an economic portrait of the area (compiling and analyzing existing data). He will present the draft to the subcommittee for review in April. The draft will then be presented to the Task Force for review and approval at the May 16, 2000 meeting.

Mike asked the Task Force for a motion to appoint Tim Bryggman to the Technical Advisory Committee as an economist. Previously, Mike discussed this with the TAC chairman and Duncan Patten agreed that Tim would be a good choice because of his natural resource background in economics.

A motion was made to approve Tim Bryggman joining the Technical Advisory Committee as an economist, the motion passed unanimously.

The subcommittee would like to have a sociologist appointed to the Technical Advisory Committee as well. It would be beneficial to have this individual selected before proceeding with the social portion of the study. Mike asked the Task Force to contact him if they have ideas of sociologists for the Technical Advisory Committee. The next meeting of the subcommittee will be April 18, 2000.

VIII. Grant Review

1. Watershed Planning Grant

Liz presented a draft version of the Watershed Planning Grant proposal, requesting funding for the Watershed Land Use Assessment. The funds will allow the Watershed Land Use Assessment to get started. This also may help NRCS commit technical assistance and support for the next phase of this study. The grant amount is for \$10,000.

A motion was made to approve the Watershed Planning Grant for the Watershed Land Use Assessment for \$10,000, the motion passed unanimously.

Liz is waiting for in-kind budget information, will make minor changes only and will have John Bailey review the final draft.

2. Educational Grant

The Task Force made a motion to approve the submittal of on the Education Grant, as noted above under the *2000 Workshop* section.

3. Reclamation and Development Grant Program

Liz asked the Task Force for approval to move forward with the Reclamation and Development Grant Program (RDGP), requesting funding for Phase II of the Fisheries Assessment, Wildlife, and Outreach and Education. The grant limitation is \$300,000. The RDGP grant funding is through Legislature. A rough draft of the grant proposal will be submitted at the April 18, 2000 Task Force meeting. Liz asked the Task Force to submit letters of support for the grant (refer to *Public Benefits Narrative-Letter of Support RDGP 2000* handout). Liz will send a notice to Task Force members as to how these letters of support should be addressed. She will need the letters by April 28, 2000.

A motion was made approving Liz to move forward with the Reclamation and Development Grant Proposal of \$300,000, the motion passed unanimously.

IX. Schedule Future Task Force Meetings

Liz Galli-Noble would like Task Force members to call her at 222-3701 if they will be unable to attend scheduled meetings.

Next meetings are:

April 18, 2000 Tuesday 7 p.m. at the Depot Center.

May 16, 2000 Tuesday 7 p.m. at the City/County Community Room.

X. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Please make note that the location of our next few meetings will vary.